



www.lpct.org

The Connecticut Libertarian

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

February 2003



Chairman's Corner

By Lenny Rasch

This year is the traditional “off” year, the year with no statewide or Federal races, typically the year of less political interest. Currently, however, several of our members are working hard on projects of vital importance to LP goals.

Ballot Access – we are trying to pass legislation to ease the petitioning requirements. There is an article in this newsletter describing the bills submitted, as part of a coordinated effort with other third parties through VOTERCT. This is a new coalition of organizations who have common interests in voter-related issues.

Send a letter today in support of one of these bills. Watch the activist-list for calls for other letters and support. These are changes that directly affect the future of the Libertarian Party – significant time and money can be saved. The time that you put in today in support of these bills can save so much in the years ahead.

Candidate Search – discussions are taking place about the top of the ticket for 2004. Ideally candidates for top offices would be committed before the fall of 2003. This will provide a much better start on fund-raising and campaigning for 2004.

Tax Protest Day – we are looking for a statewide coordinator, local coordinators, and participants in the annual tax protest on April 15th. We want to cover at least five post offices,

See Chairman's Corner on page 2

Lots of Action in Ballot Access

By Dawn Lincoln

- SB91 AAC the Circulation of Nominating Petitions
- HB5828 AAC Signatures For Qualification on the Election Ballot
- HB6099 AAC the Effect of Redistricting on Ballot Access
- HB6100 AAC Circulators of Nominating Petitions for Elective Office
- HB6087 AAC the Definition of a “Minor Party”

(SB=Senate Bill, HB=House Bill)

There are currently at least 5 bills regarding ballot access that have been referred to the Government Administration and Election (GAE) Committee. Please take a few moments to learn about them and then let the GAE know of your support. You may also want to ask your representative and/or senator to cosponsor these bills.

SB91 had a public hearing on 1/22/03 and is a committee bill, supported by the Secretary of the State.

HB5828 was introduced by Rep. Jefferson Davis at the request of Mike DeRosa of the Green Party. There is a term that needs to be clarified before it can be supported. As written the bill asks “that the general statutes be amended to reduce the number of signatures necessary to qualify for statewide, congressional and presidential offices from one to one-half of one per cent of the electors in the district”.

Currently, statutes require one per cent of the total votes cast for that office in the previously held election, not one per cent of the electors. The definition of these terms is significantly different and would work against us as written. The Statement of Purpose is fine – to encourage participation in the election process.

The following 3 bills were sponsored by Rep. Sandy Nafis and Rep. Tim O'Brien. I met with them earlier this week to clarify language on

these bills that I had previously requested Sandy to submit. One of them was totally wrong (HB6087), one had a contradiction between the proposed language and the statement of purpose (HB6100) and this one (HB6099) is just fine. They now have clear examples of what the language of HB6087 was supposed to be. Tim will be taking these corrections up with Sen. DeFronzo. DeFronzo is a co-chair of the GAE and the Senator for the district in which Tim is a Representative.

HB6087 is totally incorrect as written and will do nothing to help minor parties. It should have stated that a minor party is a party that received at least 1% but less than 20% of the vote cast for governor or has at least 1% but less than 20% of the registered voters.

HB6099 is perfect as written. It states that “in the event of redistricting, political parties previously having earned ballot access will not lose such status”. We need to get this bill brought up in committee and moved to the next level – have it be the subject matter of a public hearing.

HB6100 is on the same topic of SB91 which has already had a public hearing. Tim suggests trying to amend SB91 to make it less restrictive than it is written.

Please go to www.cga.state.ct.us. Click on committees, then on
See Ballot Access on page 2

Become a Monthly Pledger!

By Ken Mosher

Over the last two years, coinciding with the downturn in the economy, donations to the national Libertarian Party have dropped significantly. Membership has also fallen, partially because of the economy and partially because of where we are in the election cycle. The bulk of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut's funds come from the national party through the Unified Membership Program (UMP). Each month we get a check based upon our membership count plus a cut of our members' donations to the national party. Much of this monthly income is consumed by newsletter related costs, and the rest goes to operational costs, outreach, the formal conventions and ballot access.

To combat this significant downturn, to enable us to establish a steady, predictable cash flow, and to get a giant head start on ballot access fund-raising, we are asking our supporters to become monthly pledgers at whatever level is comfortable for them. Even a small monthly donation directly to the

Libertarian Party of Connecticut will be more than our share of the UMP and should help us achieve a solid financial footing for future political success.

Members of the State Central Committee (SCC) have lead the way by signing up as pledgers. Please join with us by clicking the "Donate!" link on the LPCT.ORG home page, or directly at LPCT.ORG/DonateOnline.html. On that page you will find buttons for monthly donations at the \$10, \$15, \$20, \$25, \$30 and \$50 level. The payments are made automatically through PayPal, and will continue monthly until you discontinue it through your PayPal account interface. PayPal's transaction and processing fees are extremely low, which is why we chose that method of donation. You can donate through a credit card or directly from a bank account. Either way, the Libertarian Party of Connecticut never has access to your accounts.

Please help ensure our future success. Become a monthly pledger today!

MEETINGS & NOTICES

State Central Committee Meeting - Tuesday, February 18, 2003

The monthly Libertarian Party of Connecticut State Central Committee meeting will be held at the Town Hall in Wethersfield on February 18th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is open to members and to the public.

Agenda:

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Political Director's Report

Membership Report

Communications Report

Chairman's Report

Old Business:

Ballot Access

Outreach Reorganization

Communications Quality Pledge

Tax Protest

New Business:

Legislative Action

Directions:

From North: I-91 South to Exit 28 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South).

From South: I-91 North to Exit 28 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South).

From East: I-84 West to Exit 57 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South).

From West: I-84 East to I-91 South, to Exit 28 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South).

Route 5 & 15 South: Take Exit 85 (Route 99/Silas Deane Hwy) South. At the 4th traffic light, turn right onto Church St. Turn into first driveway on left.

Please note that there are now two lists accessible from the lpct.org website. The original Libertarian Party of Connecticut-activists list is used for notifications about Libertarian Party of Connecticut activities and recruiting the volunteers who make them happen. Discussions are now hosted on Libertarian Party of Connecticut-opinions. To sign up for the Activists and/or the Opinions lists, please go to www.lpct.org.

Thanks to Ken Mosher and Walt Thiessen for their efforts in setting up the new list.

Ballot Access

Continued from page 1

Government Administration and Elections. Then click on members. You can then click on any members that you want to send an email to, preferably the leadership. A thank you to any of the sponsors might be nice too. Also, consider looking up your representative/senator and asking them to cosponsor any of the bills that are in correctly!

Here's a simple sample of an email that you might want to use. Custom tailor it to your taste. Keep it short, polite and to the point. If there are other issues you wish to address, send them in a separate email. Of course, calling or faxing are good contact methods as well.

Subject: Proposed Bill 6099

Dear Representative X,

I am in support of Proposed Bill 6099, An Act Concerning the Effect of Redistricting on Ballot Access. (Insert a reason - current requirements are burdensome to candidates, fairness, etc.). Please hold a public hearing on this important topic.

Sincerely,

so and so

town, CT

Watch the activist-list announcements for further updates.

Chairman's Corner

Continued from page 1

get more publicity, and make more contacts with weary taxpayers. Please email me at chairman@lpct.org if you can help to coordinate this event.

Local Candidates – this is the year in which we run in the local races. The earlier that you can commit, the sooner that we can help you. Please contact political@lpct.org if you can run for local office this fall. These are races that can show some real good percentages in some cases, especially if you select an unopposed race.

This is an "on" year. Every year is an "on" year. We are working in a number of areas of LP interest, with important potential payback. Please commit to helping the Libertarian Party with these important efforts.